

Remarks

Claims 1, 2 and 4-19 are pending herein. By this Amendment, claims 4, 10, 16 and 18 have been amended to overcome a rejection under 35 U.S.C. §112.

In the Office Action, claims 4, 10, 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph; claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,616,762 to Inada et al. ("Inada"); and claims 4, 16 and 18 would be allowable if rewritten or amended to overcome the rejection under §112. According to the Office Action, claims 1, 2, 5-9, 11-15, 17 and 19 are allowed.

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections set forth in the Office Action.

I. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §112

Claims 4, 10, 16 and 18 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. According to the Office Action, the term "attractive fixating means for fixedly holding the processing liquid pouring nozzles" in the claims constitutes means plus function language. Thus, the Office Action states that the specification must set forth adequate disclosure showing what is meant by the means plus function language. In addition, the Office Action states that it is unclear whether the term "attractive fixating means for fixedly holding the processing liquid pouring nozzles" means that the nozzles are being fixedly held in the attractive fixating means using physical attractive forces or an attractive or appealing design for the fixating means.

By this Amendment, claims 4, 10, 16 and 18 have been amended to change the language "attractive fixating means" to --electromagnetic fixating members--. Support for this amendment can be found in the instant specification at, e.g., page 21, lines 10-15, and page 22, lines 16-20.

Applicants respectfully submit that amended claims 4, 10, 16 and 18 are not indefinite.

II. Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

Claim 10 is rejected under §102(e) as being anticipated by Inada.

As noted above, claim 10 has been amended to change the language "attractive fixating means" to --electromagnetic fixating members--. Thus, claim 10 now recites that the nozzle-

holding means is provided with electromagnetic fixating members for fixedly holding the processing liquid pouring nozzles in a substantially radial arrangement.

Inada does not teach or suggest the use of electromagnetic fixating members in a nozzle-holding means for fixedly holding processing liquid pouring nozzles in a substantially radial arrangement. According to the Office Action, nozzle box 64 in the Inada apparatus corresponds to the nozzle-holding means of instant claim 10. Inada does not teach or suggest that nozzle box 64 therein may have electromagnetic fixating members therein, particularly electromagnetic fixating members for fixedly holding processing liquid pouring nozzles in a substantially radial arrangement.

Therefore, for at least this reason, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 10 is not anticipated by Inada.


III. Conclusion

In view of the amendments and remarks herein, Applicants respectfully request that the rejections set forth in the Office Action be withdrawn and that claims 4, 10, 16 and 18 (like claims 1, 2, 5-9, 11-15, 17 and 19) be allowed.

If any fees under 37 C. F. R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17 are due in connection with this filing, please charge the fees to Deposit Account No. 02-4300, Order No. 033082M224.

Respectfully submitted,
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